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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,592	11/23/2001	Pedro Jose Marron	P 4824 US	2075

7590 03/26/2004  
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EXAMINER

AL HASHEMI, SANA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

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DATE MAILED: 03/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,592

Applicant(s)

MARRON ET AL.

Examiner

Sana Al-Hashemi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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## DETAILED ACTION

**Claim Status: 1-21 rejected.**

### *Objection*

The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01. Specification e.g. pages 17, 22, 26, 29, 39, 42, and 44.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5, 7-10 discloses terms "oc" and "oid" which <sup>were</sup>~~was~~ not defined in the Claims. *see 3/12/4*  
Correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Delcamber et al (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059566) in view of Dutta et al. (US Patent No. 6,636,854).

1. Regarding Claims 1, and 21, Delcamber discloses a method for incorporating and accessing semi-structured data, environment, the method comprising the steps of:

a) transforming the semi-structured data into another format type data (see paragraph 0034, Delcamber) ;

b) converting a query, written in a semi-structured query language for operation on semi-structured data, another format type query (see paragraph 0034, Delcamber);

Delcamber does not explicitly disclose the step of providing access to LDAP data with said LDAP query. However, Dutta teaches the step of providing access to LDAP data using a LDAP query (see column 3, lines 29-50, Dutta). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to take advantage of this advanced technology to modify Delcamber search engine to make it useable in more than one format and the motivation would be providing directory service, specialized for reading, browsing and searching, these directories tend to contain descriptive, attribute-based information which will be open to users with reduced response time beside other benefits as described in the (What is a directory service, page 1, Open LDAP).

2. Regarding Claim 2, the combination of Delcamber in view Dutta discloses a method wherein said semi-structured data comprises XML data (see paragraph 0035, Delcamber).

3. Regarding claim 3, the combination of Delcamber in view of open LDAP does not disclose a method wherein said query written in a semi-structured query language is an XPath

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query. However, XPath is a XML path language which is used to create expressions that can address parts of an XML document (see XPath article).

4. Regarding Claim 4, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta disclose a method wherein said XML data comprises WML data (see column 4, lines 30-37, Dutta).

5. Regarding Claim 5, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method wherein step a) comprises the steps of:

a1) using attributes to store information about individual semi-structured nodes (see paragraph 0004, Delcamber); and

a2) assigning a distinguishing name to each of said data nodes to define a unique location in an LDAP hierarchy at an instance level (see paragraph 0036, Delcamber).

6. Regarding Claim 6, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method wherein said semi-structured data is transformed to comprise a node, an element and an attribute (see paragraph 0048, Delcamber).

7. Regarding Claim 7, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method wherein said node, said element and said attribute each comprise an oc attribute an oid attribute, and a name (see column 8, lines 45-53, Dutta).

8. Regarding Claim 8, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method wherein said element further comprises an order (see column 6, lines 5-12, Dutta).

9. Regarding Claims 9, and 10, the combination of Delcamber in view of open LDAP discloses a method wherein said attribute further comprises a first and second value (see paragraph 0037, Delcamber).

10. Regarding Claim 11, the combination of Delcamber in view of open LDAP discloses a method wherein step b) comprises the step of extending a scope to permit queries in an upward and downward direction (see Fig. 4, Dutta).
11. Regarding Claim 12, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method wherein step b) comprises the step of converting said semi-structured data query into a plurality of sub-queries (see paragraph 0043, Delcamber).
12. Regarding Claim 13, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method wherein said plurality of sub-queries are executed in parallel (see column 11, lines 23-32, Dutta).
13. Regarding Claim 14, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method wherein said scope is one of restricted to a first node, restricted to a first level of nodes, restricted to all nodes below a base node under action of a filter expression, restricted to a parent node, restricted to sibling nodes, and restricted to all ancestors up to a root node (see column 12, lines 8-31, Dutta).
14. Regarding Claims 15, and 16, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method further comprising executing at least one cache answerability algorithm at a level of said sub-queries (see column 5, lines 56-63, Dutta).
15. Regarding Claim 17, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method further comprising restructuring said sub-queries into a second main query and at least one refinement query (see column 7, lines 49-57, Dutta).
16. Regarding Claim 18, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method further comprising partial query evaluation of at least one of said sub-queries (see column 9, lines 19-32, Dutta).

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Regarding Claim 19, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a method further comprising pre-processing of at least one of said sub-queries (see column 8, lines 59-65, Dutta).

17. Regarding Claim 21, the combination of Delcamber in view of Dutta discloses a storage medium written with machine readable instructions for carrying out the method steps of claim 1 (see Fig. 4, Dutta).

***Points of Contact***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to: Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4881. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (703) 308-1436. Any response to this office action should be mailed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. Or telefax at phone number (703) 872-9306. For formal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT". Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Receptionist, Arlington, Virginia. 22202.

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Sana Al-Hashemi  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100  
March 19, 2004

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